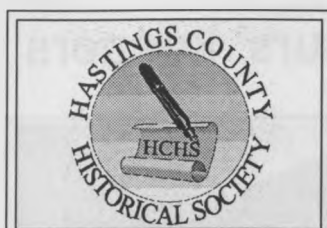


MARCH/96

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Outlook

Volume I Number 23 Issue number 132 February 1996

Next Meeting

**Tuesday, March 19
1996**

*Auditorium
Quinte Living Centre,
370 Front Street, Belleville*

**7:30 Coffee
8:00 Meeting
Guest Speaker
A.G.W. Lamonte
Topic**

**An Artillery Officer's Diary
about his 1863 cruise on
Lake Ontario**

A.G.W. (Archie) Lamonte has had a lifelong interest in the water and in boating. He is a member of the historical societies in Belleville, Picton and Napanee. During World War II, Lamonte served as an engineering officer in the Royal Canadian Navy. He studied engineering at Queen's and at the University of Toronto. Some years ago, he retired from the consulting engineering business and moved to Picton where he has resided for 20 years. He has been a recreational boater (sail) for many years. The original diary of a cruise on Lake Ontario came into his possession and he was so fascinated by its contents, he decided to put it into shape for publication. His talk will feature about fifteen 35 mm slides, some in colour and others in black and white. He will concentrate on that part of the cruise that took part in the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Archie Lamonte has given a similar talk to the Cobourg and Prince Edward County historical societies where it was received with a great deal of interest.

A black cow?

by Lewis Zandbergen
The regular monthly meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society was held on Heritage Day, Monday, February 19. Guest speaker for the evening was David Taylor president of the Prince Edward County Historical Society and a well-known local historian and author. He was introduced to the audience by Genealogy Research Director Anne Rowe.

Mr. Taylor's talk concerned the Volunteer Constable System which predated present policing systems in Ontario.

He opened his speech by outlining the historical divisions of the Canadas: the District of Mecklenburgh stretched from the Gananoque River to the Trent River. With the passage of the Canada Act in 1791, Mecklenburgh became Midland District and Prince Edward County's three original townships, Five, Six and Seven, were renamed Marysburgh, Sophiasburgh and Ameliasburgh.

In 1841 an Act of Provincial Parliament set up District Councils with appointed wardens and elected councillors from each township. The justices of the peace administered justice and their responsibilities included appointing constables for each township.

The office of constable was not just an honour but carried with it some weighty authority. The constable had to live in the place he was to serve and poor or ignorant persons could be discharged from duty; a man who kept a public house "ought not to be made a constable"

A constable, however, did have sweeping powers. He was au-

thorized to arrest all traitors, felons and suspicious persons without warrant and could take a person before a magistrate if he was committing or even threatening to commit violence against another person. However, self-defence was placed high on the list of a constable's priorities: "... if a felon resists arrest and is killed by the constable it is not a felony. The utmost caution and prudence, however, should be observed upon such occasions, since nothing but absolute necessity will justify an officer killing the party he may be in pursuit of." (This audience member could not help but draw a parallel between this Canadian "frontier" justice and the American version from which we have so carefully distanced ourselves at every opportunity.)

Mr. Taylor mentioned a few of the constables for Midland District: on April 8, 1794, W. John McLeod was appointed High Constable for the district; Peter Cole and Calib Ainsworth were constables for Sophiasburgh while John

Carnard and Daniel Robertson assumed responsibilities for Marysburgh. Ameliasburgh had none because it was in all likelihood still only sparsely settled. Sidney and Thurlow Townships had one constable each. Most constables served only five years but there were instances of longer terms. The record seems to have been set by George Rose of Ameliasburgh Township who filled the post for a total of 34 years (1853 to 1886).

Perhaps one of the most interesting cases mentioned during Mr. Taylor's speech was that of "... The King versus Thomas Creighton"

It was alleged by a Henry Lagrange, a shoemaker in Hallowell Township, in an oath made before Justice of the Peace James Dougall that Thomas Creighton of Hallowell, "... aforesaid labourer did on the first day of November instant at Hallowell aforesaid, against the order of nature carnally know a certain Black Cow."

The outcome of the case isn't known.

Continued on page 2.

**Architectural Conservancy
of Ontario**

Quinte Region Branch Calendar

*Sunday, March 17 Slide presentation
Sunday, April 21 Cherry Valley
Sunday, May 19 Lonsdale
Sunday, June 16 Macaulay House, Picton
Sunday, July 21 Campbellford
Sunday, August 18 Newburgh*

Part-time constables truly were their neighbours' keepers

Continued from page 1.

The murder of a Belleville implement salesman in December of 1883 illustrated a step in the evolution from part-time constables into a full-time constabulary.

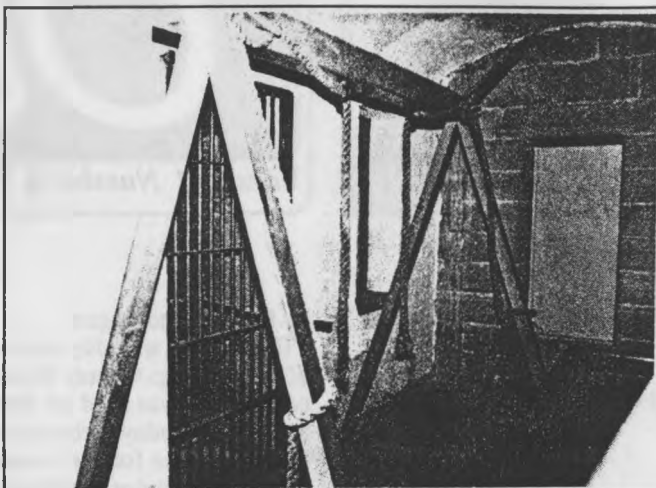
Peter Lazier was visiting Gilbert and Margaret Jones, his relatives, in Bloomfield. The couple had sold a crop of hops that afternoon and there was about \$555 (equal to about \$11,000 in today's dollars) in the house. Lazier and the couple and their hired hand, sat up talking until about 10 p.m. The hired hand left for his home next door and everyone had retired for the evening when there was a knock at the door. Mrs. Jones went to open the door and a pair of masked men burst in. Her screams summoned Lazier and Gilbert Jones from their rooms and a struggle ensued during which Lazier was killed. The would-be robbers fled on foot. Using the pattern of the bootprints left in the snow and following the tracks they soon arrested Joseph Tomsett, David Lowder and his brother George Lowder. The three went to trial on May 6, 1884. David was acquitted but the other two were found guilty. On June 10, 1884, they were hanged on a double gallows erected for the purpose in the jail in Picton.

According to Mr. Taylor the volunteer constable system was gradually phased out as new political divisions and legalities required more localized policing. The Municipal Corporations Act

of 1835, the Rural Constabulary Act of 1839 and the County and Borough Police Act of 1856 each did their part to bring changes to the justice system. The township constable officially passed into history in 1927 with the enacting of legislation requiring every appointed constable to be a county constable. The last county constables were James Lovelace in Bloomfield and Earl Marvin in Wellington. Earl retired in 1968 after 34 years of service.

The local constable system, in the words of Earl Marvin, "... ended more or less a quiet death."

Mr. Taylor was thanked by Hastings County Historical Society President Elizabeth Mitchell.



These are the double gallows constructed in the Picton jail in 1884 for the hanging of Joseph Tomsett and George Lowder. They were convicted of the murder of Peter Lazier a Belleville implement salesman.

Steve Campbell photo

Birthday of the month:

Sir Alexander Campbell. Born March 9, 1822, in Hedon, Yorkshire, England. Educated in St. Hyacinthe College and Kingston Grammar School; called to the bar of Upper Canada at the age of 21. Became John A. Macdonald's law partner. Upon Confederation appointed to the Senate; became postmaster-general. In 1873 he became the minister of the department of the interior; was also receiver-general, minister of militia and justice. Lieutenant-governor of Ontario 1887. Died in Toronto May 24, 1892.



1996 has arrived! Have you renewed your membership? If not, the Society would appreciate receipt of your membership renewal as soon as possible. New members are also welcome. Please complete this form and bring it with your payment to the Society's next general meeting, or send it by mail to the **Hastings County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1418, Belleville, Ontario K8N 5J1.**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Individual	\$15.00	Life Member	\$150.00
Family	\$20.00	Corporate Sponsor	\$50.00
Senior/Student	\$10.00	Women's Institute/	
Senior Family	\$15.00	Organization	\$15.00

I also enclose a donation of \$ _____ toward the work of the Society.

The Hastings County Historical Society is a Registered Charity. Official receipts for Income Tax purposes will be forwarded to you with your membership card.

County News

by Gerry Boyce

Heritage Week 1996 was a success. Many groups joined in the celebration, the final event being the Heritage Showcase in the Bay View Mall on Saturday, February 24. Participants included (1) our society with attractive displays on varied activities, (2) Hastings County Museum, with James Quinn seeking information on an interesting, unknown tool, (3) Heritage Belleville with a new display on key city buildings, (4) Heritage Belleville Research Team with a display of successful examples of heritage conservation and new video and walking tour of plaques and monuments, (5) the Tweed and Area Historical Society offering Tweed Centennial painter caps at the bargain price of one dollar; I bought two, (6) Wellington Community Historical Museum offering two volumes of Memoirs by Elizabeth Mowat Nind, (7) Lennox and Addington County Museum and Archives with a colourful display supervised by Jane Foster, (8) Quinte Flywheel Vintage Gas Engine Association with a very large display of models, and (9) the Quinte Veterans Association War Museum, a permanent occupant of the mall. Thanks to the Bay View Mall and special events coordinator Diane Oliver for sponsoring the Heritage Showcase. It's a good opportunity to renew acquaintances and make visitors aware of our activities. It would be great if we could come up with a major hands-on heritage activity for next year's showcase. Perhaps we could include a checkers tournament.

Heritage Belleville, the committee set up to advise city council on heritage matters, arranged several events during

Heritage Week. At the Heritage Day Council meeting, Mayor Ross McDougall assisted Heritage Belleville in presenting Certificates of Commendation to: (1) Belleville Parks and Recreation Department for "the heritage aspect in the South George Street pavilion and waterfront development; (2) Port Perry architect Dan O'Brien for his design of the South George Street project; (3) Allan Jinnah of Days Inn Suites for efforts to preserve the heritage aspect of the former Quinte Hotel; and (4) the late Rodger Greig for his many efforts to encourage local heritage, through walking tours, talks, writing, and efforts to preserve such buildings as the McIntosh-Ridley House. We were pleased that his widow, Mary Moulton Greig, was present to accept the certificate. Incidentally, Rodger was a past president of our Society.

Belleville plaques, markers, monuments and cornerstones are featured in a video recently prepared by the Heritage Belleville Research Team. The video premiered on February 21 at a Brown Bag Lunch in the Corby Library Gallery and at a Heritage Belleville open house at city hall. Featured sites include the Moodie Cottage, the Bridge Street bridge, Belleville City Hall, the log cabins (both cement and real log), several churches, and the Mackenzie-Bowell Cairn. A walking tour of the sites is also available. The Research Team (Mary Courneyea of Marmora, Tara Shiloff of Trenton, and Sean Story from Tyendinaga) continues to compile data on other sites.

Heritage Belleville recently honoured a dozen students from Loyalist College's Architectural Technology program.

On behalf of the committee, Mayor Ross McDougall made presentations to the students for their sketches of buildings and building details in the Old East Hill district. The program was under the direction of Chuck Barsony, member of Heritage Belleville and professor in the architectural program.

Flag/Heritage Day Here's a suggestion for the federal government: Flag Day took place just before Heritage Day. Why not consider a combined Flag/Heritage Day as a National Holiday in February? It's a move our society petitioned Ottawa for a few years ago.

The 75th anniversary of the discovery of insulin is being celebrated this year. The names of Dr. Frederick Banting and Charles Best are closely associated with the discovery, but I'm pleased to see the local media is also focusing attention on Dr. Bertram Collip's role. Born and educated in Belleville, Collip received a portion of the 1923 Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine for the breakthrough that has allowed diabetics to lead relatively normal lives. Among those calling attention to Collip's pivotal role are *Intelligencer* reporter Bill Hunt and Belleville's Herschell Reilly, whose father was a biochemist at McGill University and Collip's friend.

Peter Kellar may well be "one of the most interesting characters" to settle in north Hastings. A colourful and strong-willed individual of Irish and black parentage, Kellar was born on July 5, 1860, at Kellar Bridge (north of Madoc). After his marriage in 1885, he moved to Dungannon Township and later Mayo Township (near Hermon), where he established himself as a farmer and lumber mill operator. It was said he could "take care of himself" in case his racial background caused anyone a problem. He was a "no nonsense" style of

man, fair, hardworking, and an avid Orangeman. His story is told by Lyle E. Dillabough in a column in *The Bancroft Times*, February 20, Kellar deserves further study.

Welcome to Brigadier General Jeff Brace (Ret.), new executive director of the RCAF Museum in Sidney Township (just east of Trenton) on RCAF Road. Brace notes: "The museum is already still on a high from the move to this magnificent building, is going into a growth spurt and I'm very privileged to be part of it." The museum attracted 50,000 visitors in 1995.

In Brief:

(1) *The Tweed News* is running a regular column "The Tweed News in Review," a look at events from papers of 25 and 50 years ago;

(2) *The Napanee Beaver* highlights Mohawk claims for 850 acres in Deseronto and Tyendinaga Township, based on the absence of formal approval from the Mohawks for the land surrender in 1836;

(3) Andrea Clark, a former member of Heritage Belleville's Research Team, has been appointed a member of Heritage Belleville.

(4) Several pictures from our Ian Robertson photo collection (circa 1970) have appeared in "Time Capsule" in *The Intelligencer*.

(5) The latest issue of *The Country Connection* has an excellent illustrated article by Gary Long titled "Bold Schemes, Shattered Dreams: the Gilmour Drive and Tramway." Located near Dorset, the tramway was a fascinating chapter in the history of this Trenton company.

Queries:

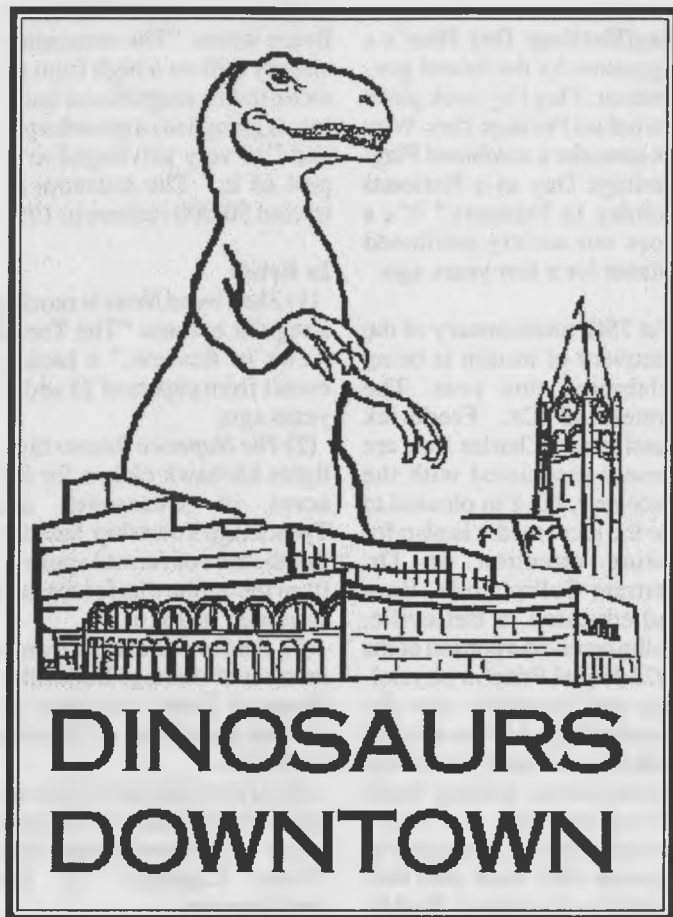
(1) If anyone knows the location of the Hanover Building in Trenton, please contact Wendy Ouellette at 392-0600

(2) "The Times Traveller" column in *The Bancroft Times* said that J. L. Tickell of Belleville was named "inspector of anatomy for West Hastings" in 1905. What did such a person do? Contact me at 968-5023.



Your County Museum

257 Bridge Street East, Belleville, Ontario, K8N 1P4 (613) 962-2329



Dinosaurs are coming!

Hastings County Museum presents **Dinosaurs Downtown**, a huge dinosaur exhibit at Century Place from May 3 to August 6. Proceeds from the exhibit will go to Glanmore's Site Restoration Project. Phase One of the project includes restoration of the inlaid gutter system and chimneys and replacement of the roof slates. The museum is seeking sponsors for the exhibit to ensure as much revenue as possible is raised for the Site Restoration. **Dinosaurs Downtown** is a 3,500-square-foot display of dinosaur skeletons produced by Research Casting International. See the T-Rex, Triceratops, dig in the bone bed and explore a computer program on dinosaurs.



March Break (March 5 - 15)
Behind the Scenes program.
Tours with a staff member held at 2 p.m. daily. See how museums care for their collections.

Extended hours for March Break

The museum will be open Wednesday, March 6, and Wednesday, March 13, until 8:30 p.m. A tour with a staff member starts at 7 p.m.

Admission

\$3 for adults,
\$2.50 for seniors and students

\$1.50 for children 5 - 12.

See **Family Treasures** during the month of March at the museum. Objects submitted by members of the community will be on display.

Outlook is published monthly for the Friends and Members of the Hastings County Historical Society

Beverley Boyce
173 Bridge Street East
Belleville Ontario
K8N 1N3

1996 (ZB)